

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10197 140508Z

11 R  
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /013 W  
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R 130833Z SEP 74  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2204

UNCLAS HONG KONG 10197

FOR H AND EA/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OREP  
SUBJECT: USE OF CONGEN PERSONNEL AND VEHICLE RESOURCES FOR VISITORS

### 1. CONGEN HONG KONG IS PROUD OF ITS REPUTATION FOR TAKING GOOD CARE OF

OFFICIAL VISITORS OF ALL KINDS. VOLUME OF SUCCESSFUL OFFICIAL VISITS ATTESTS TO THIS. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT DIFFICULTIES CAUSE WHEN CONGEN IS REQUESTED TO APPOINT CONTROL OFFICER, MEET AND ASSIST, AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR VISITORS WHEN NATURE OF VISIT DOES NOT REALLY JUSTIFY SUCH SERVICES. CASE IN POINT IS RECENT VISIT OF STAFFDEL STATE 182193 FOR WHICH DEPARTMENT REQUESTED FULL ARRAY OF THESE SERVICES, YET STAFFDEL CLEARLY HAD NO OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO CONDUCT HERE.

2. ONE OBVIOUS PROBLEM IS THE REQUEST TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR NON-WORKING VISITS. VISITORS OFTEN ARRIVE AT NIGHT, WHICH REQUIRES OVERTIME ON THE PART OF BOTH THE CONTROL OFFICER AND DRIVER. MAJOR HOTELS STATION CARS IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT TERMINAL EXIT WHILE CONGEN DRIVERS, WHO IN MOST CASES HAVE TO SEEK OUT VISITORS, REQUIRE ANOTHER 10-15 MINUTES TO RETRIEVE CONGEN VEHICLES FROM AIRPORT PARKING LOT. TAXIS ARE READILY AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF TERMINAL AT ALL TIMES. BECAUSE OF TRAFFIC CONDITIONS AND LACK OF PARKING, TAXIS ARE BETTER FOR CITY DRIVING REQUIREMENTS. ASSIGNED CONGEN DRIVERS OFTEN HAVE TO WAIT IDLY DURING THE DAY FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM VISITORS WHO MAY OR MAY NOT REQUEST CONGEN TRANSPORTATION. IN ANY CASE, IT IS EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC TO USE TAXIS BOTH FOR ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES AND GENERAL GETTING AROUND.

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3. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WOULD IMPROVE SERVICE AND EASE THE STRAIN ON OUR PERSONNEL AND LIMITED VEHICLE FLEET, IF WE WERE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND/OR ESCORT SERVICES ONLY TO VISITORS WITH SOME OFFICIAL BUSINESS HERE.

4. WE ARE NOT COMPLAINING. WE WILL BE GLAD TO CONTINUE TO DO WHAT THE DEPARTMENT ASKS. BUT FROM TIME TO TIME IT IS NECESSARY TO REMIND THOSE THAT ORIGINATE THESE REQUESTS THAT IS IS INAPPROPRIATE TO SUGGEST THE FULL ARRAY OF SERVICES BE PROVIDED TO CASUAL OFFICIAL VISITORS.  
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